

GERMAN EIGHT IS NOW IN OPERATION; SITUATION SERIOUS

Washington Fails to Receive Reply to Note Concerning Submarine Attacks on Merchantmen in New Sea Zones.

ANTI-AMERICAN EDITORIALS

Ambassador Gerard Continues to Cable Text of Hostile Utterances in Semi-Official German Press—He Receives Friendly Treatment in Berlin.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Secretary Bryan said late tonight that no reply had been received from Germany to the American note concerning submarine attacks on belated merchant ships in the new sea zones of war under the German admiralty's designation which goes into effect tomorrow. It is a reply to the representations of the United States had been delivered in Berlin to Ambassador Gerard, the state department had not been apprised of that fact.

Publication tonight of the text of Great Britain's complete reply to the American note concerning submarine attacks on belated merchant ships in the new sea zones of war under the German admiralty's designation which goes into effect tomorrow, revealed that England does not intend to relax her vigilance on the shipments of food stuffs and announces that measures are in contemplation to retaliate against submarine attacks by Germany on British merchant ships. The warning in the British note that Germany is abandoning the principles of international law by refusing to verify the character of a merchant ship before attacking it, England may not be bound by the rules which the developments of the next few days were generally expected to have in important bearing.

SERIOUS POSSIBILITIES

While officials at the White House said state department did not discuss that might be done if any American vessels or lives should be lost in the new zones, it was admitted on all sides that the situation was fraught with very grave possibilities.

Ambassador Gerard's dispatches continued to give the text of anti-American editorials being printed in semi-official papers in Germany. Officials at the Washington government, however, were confident of the rights of the Washington government and pointed out that a position similar to that of the United States had been adopted practically all the other neutral nations of the world.

Representatives of the German government are cordially friendly in their references with Ambassador Gerard. It is there is nothing to show that of the Washington government and pointed out that a position similar to that of the United States had been adopted practically all the other neutral nations of the world.

SUGGESTION DISAPPROVED

The recent suggestion from German press that American merchant men might escape attack and secure safety by carrying on an American warship was not met with approval in naval circles here. It was pointed out today that naval circles would be willing to assume full responsibility for the non-attack character of the cargo of an American ship which might fall in its zone and claim his protection, an adequate search of the non-attack on the high seas would be out of question. Furthermore, it is suggested that the threatened British retaliation for the German war zone may be the basis of notice of a blockade of the German coast. In that case, not even an American man-of-war would have the right to pass the blockade, three miles from the coast with a cargo of merchant ships. Formal notice of the British of the blockade and notification of it by the United States would, of course, at once remove from the field of diplomatic negotiations all nations relating to the right of neutral nations to send cargoes of food to the population of the blockade.

FARMERS' CLUB DISCUSSES TAXATION

Montpelier, Feb. 17.—The Farmers' club discussed the tax bill tonight, here will it bring the needed revenue? asked Mr. Hamblitt. More intangibles will be declared, said Mr. Demeritt. He cited Baltimore, which by a low flat rate increased revenues from intangibles in \$129,000 to \$2,000,000. Why didn't you refuse to allow off-sets on debts from outside the State? in justice to our merchants, said Mr. Demeritt. "Why not full off-sets?" inquired Mr. Hamblitt later. Mr. Demeritt said that only 75 per cent of off-sets were allowed because lenders usually appraised property about 75 per cent of its value. The first public hearing on the knicker's compensation bill will be Thursday afternoon at four o'clock.

WAR NEWS SUMMARY

The time limit set by Germany for neutral shipping to take measures of safety has expired, and Germany is now expected to put into operation her declared intention of employing her submarines and mines in the waters around the British Isles, which she has proclaimed a war zone, with the object of shutting off the food supplies of the British people.

Germany has earnestly warned the neutral States that this zone will hereafter be a danger zone for all shipping and has expressed her determination of taking the most stringent action against the British merchantmen.

It is announced from Berlin that Germany's reply to the American note regarding such action has been handed to the American ambassador at the German capital, but this reply has not yet been received by the State department at Washington.

In the meantime, Germany in developing her submarine warfare has added one more merchant ship to the list of vessels destroyed by sinking the small French steamer Ville De L'Isle off Cherbourg.

Regarding the operations on land it is apparent from the official announcements issued by the French war office that some heavy fighting is taking place both in Belgium and in France. The French claim not only to have maintained the second recently gained but to have captured some of the German trenches and repelled many counter attacks by the Germans. French aviators have dropped bombs on the railway station at Freiburg, Baden.

Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's successful operations against the Russian land army in East Prussia are still being celebrated in Berlin, where Von Hindenburg's direction of the campaign is described as having been characterized by masterly skill. Officially it is announced that the German troops are still following the Russians north of the Niemen river.

In Poland, north of the Vistula, from Plock, recently occupied by the Germans, to Radom, another great battle is developing, the fighting in that region already being of a desperate nature.

Austria, according to the Swiss, for ten days has been concentrating troops, chiefly artillery, on her Italian front.

ler. Guns have been employed to dominate the Tyrolse passes.

All along the entire boundary of Serbia Albanian forces are active. Ochrid, 100 miles north of Janina, has been captured by the Albanians, and violent fighting is in progress at several places. Delagatch, on the Aegean sea, is blockaded by British and French warships, to prevent foodstuffs from being transported to Germany and Austria through this route.

Conclusions have a report that German troops, indubitable for army service, also have independent means, are to be ordered by the German government to proceed to neutral countries and there remain until the end of the war, in order to decrease the consumption of food in the empire.

A report from Basel, Switzerland, says that Emperor William, who has visited Germany, to the East Prussian front, will apologize personally to the ambassador for the demonstration made against him in a Berlin theatre recently. Russia gives a Berlin dispatch as the basis for this statement.

Great Britain, in her answer to the American protest against the detention of American ships by British vessels, denies that Great Britain unduly detains ships or that the naval operations of Great Britain have been the cause of any diminution in the volume of American exports, adding that if the commerce of the United States in the American note "the cause sought, in fairness, to be sought elsewhere than in the activities of His Majesty's naval forces."

Among these causes the note cites the shortage of shipping facilities; the consequent diminution of the cotton trade and the destruction by submarine mines "aid by the enemy" of many neutral vessels.

The answer concedes that foodstuffs for a civil population are not contraband but says "in any country, in which there exists such a tremendous organization for war as now obtains in Germany there is no clear division between those whom the government is responsible for feeding and whom it is not."

The note says Great Britain will retaliate against Germany's submarine campaign, but does not go into details concerning its proposed procedure.

centration of embassies, consulates and all American offices in one building so as to form one American center in every foreign capital.

He urged the authorization of a much enlarged force of clerks and secretaries and cited instances of costly delay caused by the fact that in times of stress there are occasions when there actually have not been enough clerks to handle the official mail. He urged the placing of the service on a permanent basis. "Our army and our navy command universal respect," he said. "They are not in politics. They are free from scandal. Why should not the corps that represents our country abroad for the prevention of war be placed upon the same footing as those who represent us when we make war?"

"To compete successfully with the diplomats of other nations, American diplomats should be trained at least as well as foreign diplomats are trained. Our diplomatic corps, for example, is especially weak in the knowledge of foreign languages. There are, indeed, certain foreign capitals where the American mission is the only one where there is not a single official who speaks the language of the country to which he is accredited. It is a European custom to allow extra pay to secretaries acquiring the more difficult languages of eastern Europe and of the East."

FOR "DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY"

It also believes most heartily in a further association of the diplomatic service to that of the army and navy of the United States. It ought of course to be true that any American boy may aspire to any post in the gift of the government. Now how shall we make this possible, aside from paying more adequate salaries by equipping any young American who desires to serve his country abroad in the interest of peace and with the necessary expert education and training?

HEARING ON MEDICAL INSPECTION

Montpelier, Feb. 17.—The bill requiring medical inspection in the schools was the subject of an interesting hearing held by the committee on public health this evening. Several Christian Scientists appeared in opposition to the bill, S. 21.

Alexander Dunnett represented the Christian Scientists. There was a lively debate and much testimony was adduced to show the beneficial results in towns which had adopted it. Brattleboro had voted for medical inspection of the schools and had employed Miss Anna Davis, a trained nurse, who was able to devote more time to the inspection than a physician.

The results had been reported to the parents, who then consulted family physicians. Epidemics had been checked. Parents had been advised. Miss Davis and the Rev. E. S. G. Osgood, speaking for Brattleboro and many other towns, wished that inspection would be mandatory upon all towns but optional to the educating of trained nurses or physicians.

Dr. Dalton of Burlington reported the slow progress of the present law under which few towns had ever voted. Dr. C. J. Johnson reported for the Burlington Inspection. Dr. Stanley for Hartford.

W. H. C. Stuckey, J. G. Sargent and Frank C. Williams closed the argument for the bill. "It has proved itself a benefit everywhere it has been tried," said Mr. Stuckey. "And should be made mandatory by a bill drawn to meet our conditions." Mr. Williams said, "Compulsory inspection is certainly an American principle just as much as compulsory education. It means looking after the physical well being of our children." A few others were heard at the hearing, which lasted four hours.

HOUSE IS IN FAVOR OF ABOLISHING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

But Has No Fault to Find with Mr. Barber—Expense of the Office Is Made One Point of Attack.

VOTE AGAINST IT 164 TO 59

Eugenic Marriage Bill to Come Up To-morrow—The Detention Farm Measure Reported Unfavorably—Isle La Motte Ferry Franchise Held Up.

Montpelier, Feb. 17.—The House voted today by a large majority to abolish the office of the attorney-general. In doing so, it was made clear the members had no reflection upon the present incumbent, but went on record as opposing the continuance of the office, which was characterized as an expensive luxury. This was the sole event in an otherwise uneventful day. The calendar was a full one with many of yesterday's unfinished business upon it, but practically every other important measure was ordered to lie.

The bill H. 125, abolishing the attorney-general's office, came in from the Judiciary committee with an adverse majority report and with a minority of three favoring it. Mr. Stone of Vergennes, opposing much oratory, moved that action be postponed, but this was overwhelmingly voted down.

Mr. Putnam of Montpelier, House of Representatives, introduced a bill H. 126, to amend the act of March 1904, which was created. Mr. Stone expressed respect for the present incumbent, but said that in the program of the House, the unreasonably large judiciary expense, here was the opportunity to begin.

Mr. Putnam thought the office unnecessary. It has meant increased expense, he said, each year since 1904, when it was created. Mr. Stone expressed respect for the present incumbent, but said that in the program of the House, the unreasonably large judiciary expense, here was the opportunity to begin.

NEEDLESS AND EXPENSIVE

Mr. Putnam thought the office unnecessary. It has meant increased expense, he said, each year since 1904, when it was created. Mr. Stone expressed respect for the present incumbent, but said that in the program of the House, the unreasonably large judiciary expense, here was the opportunity to begin.

Mr. Putnam thought the office unnecessary. It has meant increased expense, he said, each year since 1904, when it was created. Mr. Stone expressed respect for the present incumbent, but said that in the program of the House, the unreasonably large judiciary expense, here was the opportunity to begin.

Mr. Putnam thought the office unnecessary. It has meant increased expense, he said, each year since 1904, when it was created. Mr. Stone expressed respect for the present incumbent, but said that in the program of the House, the unreasonably large judiciary expense, here was the opportunity to begin.

Mr. Putnam thought the office unnecessary. It has meant increased expense, he said, each year since 1904, when it was created. Mr. Stone expressed respect for the present incumbent, but said that in the program of the House, the unreasonably large judiciary expense, here was the opportunity to begin.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY VOTE

The Chittenden county vote on the question, shall the bill abolishing the office of attorney-general be read the third time, was as follows:

Yes—Nichols of Essex, Bostwick of Hinesburg, Jackson of Jericho, Berry of Milton, Ryan of Richmond, Marslett of Shelburne, O'Brien of South Burlington, Hunsdale of St. George, Leidy of Underhill, Whipple of Westford.

No—Black of Burlington, Williams of Charlotte, Norton of Huntington, Johnson of Williston.

Not voting—O'Brien of Bolton, Burdick of Colchester.

The State schools and education committee will draft a bill some time this week which will contain some of the reforms proposed in H. 170, the education bill, and will follow the recommendations of Vermont educators that were shown in the hearings on the education bill. Next Friday the last hearing on the education bill will be held, when the colleges and normal schools will be given an opportunity to express their views upon the educational policy of the State.

The work of investigating Speedwell Farms before accepting the Vail offer is now in its last stages, and some developments may be expected this week. Dean Cook of the Canton Agricultural school in Canton, N. Y., a similar institution, visited the Vail school on Monday with other agriculturalists and reported to the Governor upon some of the practical details of the plan. The joint committee which visited the Vail school and the Randolph school is preparing a thorough report which is expected to furnish all questions and delay when the matter is presented to the legislators.

The Governor's chamber was freely open to the public for an hour this afternoon and many school children came in to meet him. Receiving the children gave the Governor much pleasure. The children who visited the session came from Plainfield, Milton and Montpelier. More school children are expected as visitors to-morrow.

TO CONSIDER BUDGET

Governor Gates will confer with the appropriations committee to-morrow.

HAPPENINGS IN VT.: NEWS BY COUNTIES

ADDISON COUNTY MIDDLEBURY.

The annual meeting of the Congregational church was held in the church parlor Thursday evening with a large attendance. The meeting opened at six o'clock with a supper in the vestry of the church, the sitting down. Reports of officers showed that the church society was in good condition. The following officers were elected: Deacons, Charles H. Wright, Clarence A. Phillips, deacons, Mrs. J. E. Crane and Miss Florence E. Eddy, clerk, E. J. Matthews; assistant clerk, J. G. Seelye, Jr.; treasurer, T. E. Boyce; historian, Susan H. Arnold; officers of the Bible school, superintendent, J. E. Weeks, associate, Charles E. Abbott; assistant, Gordon M. Quiver; department, superintendents, elementary, Mrs. T. E. Boyce, assistant, Mrs. George Haynes; intermediate, Mrs. C. E. Haynes; missionary, Mrs. M. M. Taylor; cradle roll, Mrs. George Mead, assistant, Mrs. George Haynes; home, Miss Florence Eddy; visitors home department, Mrs. George Haynes, Mrs. Floyd Kees, Miss George Haynes and treasurer, R. G. Merrill; assistants, Miss Mary Bowles, Herbert Easton; pianists, Miss Letha Hayward, Miss Marion Thomas; pianist elementary department, Miss Grace Linn, Miss Chaffee; chorists, H. G. Merrill, Mrs. Frances Aubrey Thomas, wife of Henry S. Thomas of West Cornwall, and Sunday school superintendent, Mrs. E. J. Weeks. Thursday afternoon from 2 o'clock to 4 o'clock, a meeting of the Y. M. C. A. held a well-attended meeting at the home of Mrs. H. S. Bonfield on Court street Monday afternoon. Mrs. M. L. Howells has returned from Vergennes. J. A. Richmond has returned from Burlington, where he went after his wife, who underwent an operation at the Starr Fletcher hospital. Mrs. William Needham of Whiting is at the home of her sister, Mrs. Robert Thomas. A. D. Wright has sold his farm to E. G. Piper of this village. It is understood that Mr. Piper will take possession April 1. Monday market day, eggs brought 25 cents and butter 28 to 30.

Continued on page two.

SHIP BILL HAS ANOTHER SETBACK

Washington, Feb. 17.—The amended government ship purchase bill rushed through the House early today failed to gain ground when it reached the Senate and administration leaders tonight were in doubt as to what would be its fate.

Early in the day it was discovered that the amended bill had failed to satisfy recalcitrant democrats or progressive republicans. Without support of either of these factions it could not be passed. In this situation the regular democratic leaders realized that nothing could be done unless some change in the measure could be effected in conference, but all their efforts to send the amended bill to conference failed. Another attempt will be made to amend and then republican leaders, who insist the bill is dead, are expected to demand an understanding that appropriation bills will be taken up before they cease their opposition.

Interest centered today in the special Senate committee's inquiry into charges of outside influences concerning the ship measure. At the first of the hearings, Richard S. Baker of Baltimore, formerly connected with the Atlantic Transport company, told the committee of conferences with secretary of Treasury McAdoo, in which he told the secretary that sixty per cent of foreign ships tied up in American ports because of the war could not be considered as available for purchase by the United States for freight service because they were passenger vessels. Mr. Baker also stated that W. J. Rickard, an official of the Hamburg American line, had told him he had received orders from the German government not to sell any German vessels in American ports to the United States.

This testimony prompted the committee to summon Mr. Rickard, who will appear to-morrow. Wallace Dewey, a New York ship builder, also has been summoned.

N. E. COLPORTEURS AT RUTLAND

Rutland, Feb. 17.—The biennial convention of Seventh Day Adventists Colporteurs of New England is in session and will continue until Wednesday of next week.

All New England States and New York are represented among the delegates. Among the prominent workers present are: The Rev. K. O. Russell of Albany, N. Y., P. W. Strong of Concord, N. H., Messrs. R. A. Ware of Wilton, N. H., H. M. Kirkland of Manchester, N. H., L. Foley of Barnstead, N. H., V. O. Cole of South Lancaster, Mass., Miss Nellie Wilson of Fort Ann, N. Y., Miss Ruby Foster of Essex Junction, Miss Evelyn Robson of Randolph, Miss Mabel Scott of Randolph, and Miss Muriel Wymann of Hudson, N. Y. The clergymen of the city are interested visitors at the sessions of conference.

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD HEARING

Rutland, Feb. 17.—The Vermont public service commission held a hearing in this city today to consider a petition of the Colonial Power and Light company of Springfield to issue short time notes to take up some construction demand notes. The entire commission was present, W. A. Dutton of Hardwick making his first appearance in this city as a member. State Attorney Bert L. Cole of Windsor county represented the State and Attorney T. W. Moloney of Rutland, the company.

Continued on page four.

BRITISH DENY THAT NAVAL ACTS CAUSE TRADE DEPRESSION

Assertion Is Chief Feature of England's Second and Complete Reply to American Protest of December.

RETALIATION THREATENED

Great Britain Announces She Will Take Measures of Retaliation for German Submarine Policy—May Waive Rules of International Law.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Great Britain's second and complete reply to the American note of protest, which on December 22 last asked for a cease fire improvement in the treatment of American commerce in the British fleet, was made public tonight by mutual agreement between the state department and the British foreign office.

The note, addressed to Ambassador Page by Sir Edward Grey under date of February 16, denies that the depression in American industries is due to the activity of the British fleet, and suggests among other causes the shortage of shipping facilities, the consequent diminution of cotton trade and the destruction by submarine mines "aid by the enemy" of many neutral vessels.

After giving a lengthy and detailed answer to the charge that American ships and cargoes were being unduly detained, the communication contains in its concluding paragraph the announcement that Great Britain intends to take retaliatory measures against the German submarine campaign against enemy ships but does not reveal their nature.

RETALIATION TOWARD GERMANY

Conceding that foodstuffs intended for the civil population of a country are not contraband, the British government points out that "in any country in which there exists such a tremendous organization for war as now obtains in Germany, there is no clear division between those whom the government is responsible for feeding and those whom it is not."

"It will be our endeavor," says the final paragraph, "to avoid injury and loss to neutrals, but the announcement by the German government of their intention to sink merchant vessels and their cargoes without verification of their nationality or character and without making any provision for the safety of non-combatant crews or giving them a chance of saving their lives, has made it necessary for His Majesty's government to consider what measures they should adopt to protect their interests. It is impossible for one belligerent to depart from rules and precedents and for the other to remain bound by them."

AMERICAN CHARGES DENIED

Supplementing the preliminary reply of several weeks ago, this note includes not only a statistical argument but a further discussion of the legal principles involved. Foremost, however, is the denial of the British government that the depression in American industries referred to in the American note was due to the alleged interference of the British fleet with American commerce, or "the result of any exercise of belligerent rights."

Since the presentation of the preliminary note, Sir Edward states that he has had "further opportunity of examining into the trade statistics of the United States as embodied in the customs returns, in order to see whether the belligerent action of Great Britain has been in any way the cause of the trade depression which Your Excellency (Ambassador Page) describes as existing in the United States and also whether the seizures of vessels or cargoes which have been made by the British navy have inflicted any loss on American owners for which our existing machinery provides no means of redress."

BRITISH METHODS

"In setting out the results of my investigation," writes the British secretary, "I think it well to take the opportunity of giving a general review of the methods employed by His Majesty's government to justify its contraband trade with the enemy, its consistency with the admitted right of a belligerent to intercept such trade and also of the extent to which they have endeavored to meet the representations and complaints from time to time addressed to them on behalf of the United States government."

"Towards the close of your note of the 25th of December, Your Excellency described the situation produced by the action of Great Britain as a peril to the commercial interests of the United States, and said that many of the great industries of the country were suffering because their products were denied long established markets in neutral European countries contiguous to the nations at war."

"It is unfortunately true that in those days, when trade and finance are cosmopolitan, any war, particularly a war of any magnitude, must result in a grievous dislocation of commerce, including that of the nations which take no part in the war. Your Excellency will realize that in this tremendous struggle, for the outbreak of which Great Britain is in no way responsible, it is impossible for the trade of any country to escape all injury and loss, but for such His Majesty's government are not to blame."

THE SEIZURE QUESTION

"I do not understand the paragraph (Continued on page five).